REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 14, 20, 26 and 33 are amended. Claims 1-39 remain in the application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification, claims and abstract by the current preliminary amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Entry of the foregoing amendments prior to the initial examination of the above-captioned application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: April 16, 2001
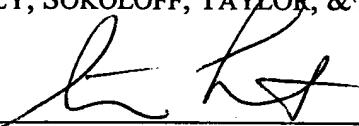
By: _____
Steven Laut
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 16, 2001.
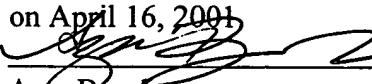
_____
Azar Burnham   April 16, 2000

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

A device is presented that includes an encoder. The encoder compresses a plurality of signals at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual signal quality. Also presented is a device that includes a decoder. The decoder decompresses a plurality of compressed signals at variable rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual signal quality.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph on page 3, line 5 has been deleted.

The paragraph beginning on page 39, line 1 has been amended as follows:

The first task in Frame Disassembly is the identification of the total length of the frame and the location of individual parameters in the frame's bit stream. [To this end, with reference to the structures displayed in **Figure 9**, t]The IRC bit is first examined to determine the presence or absence of RC Block. The next 3 bits are the EDF(Epoch Length Delta Flag). If the EDF is 7 there are 8 bits of Encoded Epoch Length following the RDF. The next 2 bits are the RDF (RMS Delta Flag). If the RDF is 3, then the RMS absolute value is included as 5 bits following either the Epoch Length(if present) or the RDF (if no Epoch Length). These operations have established the length and structure of the ER Header (Epoch_Length RMS Header). The values in the ER Header are now decoded as follows:

The paragraph continuing on page 40, line 1 has been amended as follows:

Block is a full frame containing 62 bits [laid out as illustrated in **Figure 9**]. If the

LogRMS is less than or equal to the RMSThold or the first bit of the RC Block is 1, the RC

Block is a half frame containing 30 bits [laid out as illustrated in **Figure 9**].

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

1.   (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an encoder, the encoder to compress a plurality of signals at variable <u>frame</u> rates

based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving

perceptual signal quality.

9.   (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a decoder; and

to decompress a plurality of compressed signals at variable <u>frame</u> rates based on a

plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual

signal quality.

14.   (Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine comprising instructions that

cause the machine to:

receive a plurality of signals from a first transmission device;

encode the plurality of signals in a compressed format; and

transmit the plurality of signals in a compressed format through a transmission

medium at variable <u>frame</u> rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce

signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual quality of the signals.

20.   (Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine comprising instructions that

cause the machine to:

receive the plurality of signals in a compressed format through a transmission

medium at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce

signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual quality of the signals;

decode the plurality of compressed signals; and

transmit the decoded signals to a first receiving device.

26.   (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of signals from a transmission device;

encoding the plurality of signals in a compressed format; and

transmitting the plurality of signals in a compressed format through a transmission

medium at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce

signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual quality of the signals.

33.   (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of signals in a compressed format through a transmission

medium at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce

signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual quality of the plurality of the signals;

decoding the plurality of compressed signals; and

transmitting the decoded signals to a receiving device.